

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application, where claims 1 and 19-20 are independent. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

The Final Office Action rejects claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over WO 02/37411 (Liess) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,525,677 (Printzis) and Reissue U.S. Patent No. Re. 33,422 (Garcia). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-23 are patentable over Liess, Printzis and Garcia for at least the following reasons.

The Final Office Action correctly notes that Liess and Printzis do not disclose or suggest that "each key of the optical keyboard along said at least two paths is associated with only a single path of said at least two paths," as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 19-20. Garcia is cited in an attempt to remedy the deficiencies in Liess and Printzis.

Garcia is directed to an optically activated keyboard that includes columns 40 and rows 41 with LED's 50 placed in the columns 40 and photo transistors 51 placed in the rows 41, as shown in FIG 4. FIG 7 shown the LEDs as emitters E1-E4 and the photo transistors or receivers as R1-R3. That is, the paths in Garcia are between emitters and receivers. Garcia does not disclose or suggest any window as recited in independent claims 1 and 19-20.

In stark contrast, the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 19-20, amongst other patentable elements recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

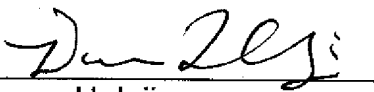
wherein at least **two paths** of the at least two measuring beams **from the at least two diode lasers to the window** extend through at least two light guides of the optical keyboard, said at least two paths including mirrors and **passing through the window**, **wherein each key of the optical keyboard along said at least two paths is associated with only a single path of said at least two paths.**

Two paths from two diode lasers to a single window, where each along the two paths is associated with only a single path of the two paths are nowhere disclosed or suggested in Liess, Printzis, Garcia, and combinations thereof.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1 and 19-20 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-18 and 21-23 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 19-20 as well as their individually patentable elements.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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